





Public Preschool Services

Homeless Liaison Professional Learning Summit
August 25, 2016

What is State-Funded Preschool?

- ▶ KRS 157.3175 establishes Kentucky's preschool education program to serve four-year-old children at-risk of educational failure (defined as eligible for free lunch) and three- and four-year-old children with disabilities, regardless of income.
- ▶ Homeless children are **categorically eligible** for state-funded preschool.



Preschool Eligibility

- 4 year-old at risk 160% of federal poverty
- 3s & 4s with disabilities
- Other children if space is available
- All school districts



What is Head Start?

- ▶ Head Start promotes the school readiness of young children from low-income families through agencies in their local community.
- ▶ Programs provide children and their families with health, nutrition, social, and other services.
- ▶ Homeless children **must be prioritized** for enrollment.



Head Start Eligibility

- ▶ 3-5 years of age
- ▶ Family income equal to or below the federal poverty level



Components of Preschool Services

- ▶ Developmentally appropriate teaching and learning
- ▶ Inclusive practices
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Nutrition
- ▶ Health and Social Services
- ▶ Family / Parent Involvement
- ▶ Program Evaluation
- ▶ Collaboration
- ▶ Teacher Certification (state-funded preschool)



As Homeless Liaison, what are my preschool responsibilities?

- ▶ Collaborate with preschool, Head Start, First Steps (Part C), child care and other early childhood programs to identify preschool age children experiencing homelessness.
- ▶ Ensure preschool children and their families receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start and state-funded preschool program services
- ▶ Homeless three- and four-year-old children with disabilities and at-risk four-year-old children are **categorically eligible** for state-funded preschool program services



ESSA and homeless preschool children

- ▶ Increased focus on preschool
- ▶ State plans must include procedures that ensure homeless children have access to preschool programs.
- ▶ Liaisons must ensure homeless families and children have access to early intervention services under IDEA Part C, if eligible.
- ▶ The definition of school of origin includes preschools.

Source: NAEHCY



Preschool Scenario

Patrice turned four on July 30, 2016. He attended preschool in another county until August 15, when he and his mother were evicted from their apartment. They have moved into a temporary shelter in your school district. Your district's preschool coordinator says Patrice may not enroll in the preschool program without a copy of the immunization form from the other school district. True or false?



What about enrollment?

- ▶ Enroll homeless children, including homeless preschool students, **immediately**, and without using forms, policies or procedures to create barriers or cause delay.



Questions?





For more information



Bill Buchanan

Early Learning Liaison
Division of Program Standards
Office of Teaching and Learning

Kentucky Department of Education
500 Mero Street – 19th Floor, CPT
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-7056 ext. 4702/FAX (502) 564-1984
bill.buchanan@education.ky.gov

